

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100339  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100339

FOR USDEL LOS

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 982 ACTION SECSTATE DATED APR 18:

QTE:C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0982

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EFIS CU  
SUBJ: CUBANS EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH US MOVES TO SOLVE FISHING  
BYCATCH PROBLEM

REF: A. HAVANA 101, B. STATE 60019, C. HAVANA 803

1. SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS NOTE  
EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH US MOVES TO SEEK SOLUTION  
TO ATLANTIC FISHERIES BYCATCH PROBLEM AND STATES THAT  
CUBANS WILL BEGIN FISHERIES IMMEDIATELY IN US CONSERVATION  
ZONE. CUBANS, THEREBY, DROP EARLIER BITTERNESS AND DEMANDS FOR  
PRIOR ADJUSTMENT OF BYCATCH LEVELS GRANTED BY US. USINT CONSIDERS  
THIS POSITIVE TURN OF EVENTS OF FISHERY FRONT AND HOPES THAT  
POSSIBLE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS MENTIONED IN RECENT HAVANA  
TALKS CAN BE PUT INTO PRACTICE. END SUMMARY

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2. USINT, APRIL 14, RECEIVED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
RELATIONS (MINREX) NOTE 652 DATED APRIL 12 WHICH  
EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH RECENT WASHINGTON (REFTEL B)  
AND HAVANA (REFTEL C) TECHNICAL FISHERIES TALKS  
AND ACTIONS OF US FISHERIES AUTHORITIES IN SEEKING  
SOLUTION TO ATLANTIC BYCATCH PROBLEM. NOTE INDICATES  
THAT CUBANS WILL BEGIN FISHING IMMEDIATELY IN

US ZONE WITH ONE TRAWLER AND WILL GRADUALLY INCREASE NUMBER TO FOUR. CUBANS STATE THAT BEGINNING OF FISHING ACTIVITY DOES NOT PREJUDICE THEIR EARLIER DEMANDS FOR CHANGE IN US BYCATCH LEVELS AND REGULATIONS (REFTEL A). BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT CUBANS NOW ACCEPT THAT USG IS NOT SEEKING MALICIOUSLY TO CUT OFF CUBAN FISHING, AND THAT WAY MAY OPEN UP TO PURSUE COMMERCIALY FEASIBLE FISHING ACTIVITY WITHIN QUOTAS ASSIGNED BY US. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF OPERATIVE PORTION OF NOTE FOLLOWS.

3. MINREX WISHES TO REFER TO BEGIN QUOTE NOTE 42 OF JANUARY 6, 1978 (REFTEL A) IN WHICH THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF REALIZING THE CATCH OF FISH ALLOCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR 1978 AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL AND WITH A MINIMUM OF EFFICIENCY WAS POINTED OUT, AND THEREFORE, THE UTILITY OF HOLDING CONVERSATIONS TO ARRIVE AT A RECONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEMS POSED, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO ACCOMPANYING SPECIES AND BYCATCH, WAS SUGGESTED. EVEN THOUGH THE CONDITIONS WHICH MOTIVATED THE PRESENTATION OF THE CITED NOTE STILL EXIST WITHOUT CHANGES FROM THE LEGAL POINT OF VIEW UP TO THE PRESENT, THE CONVERSATIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA BY DELEGATIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AND THE ACTIONS INITIATED IN THIS REGARD BY THE UNITED STATES' FISHING AUTHORITIES LOOKING TOWARD AN ADEQUATE SOLUTION TO THE BYCATCH PROBLEM. HAVE CAUSED THE CUBAN FISHING AUTHORITIES TO RECONSIDER  
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THEIR DECISION AND TO PREPARE TO BEGIN FISHING FOR THE QUOTAS ASSIGNED TO OUR COUNTRY FOR 1978 BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BY VIRTUE OF THE FISHING AGREEMENT SIGNED APRIL 27, 1977, AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, TO SEND IN ONE TRAWLER IMMEDIATELY WHICH OTHER FISHING BOATS WILL GRADUALLY JOIN, EVENTUALLY REACHING AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF FOUR BOATS. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS UTILIZES THIS MEANS TO EXPRESS THE FACT THAT THE BEGINNING OF FISHERIES UNDER PREVAILING CONDITIONS DOES NOT PREJUDICE NOR MODIFY THE CLAIMS THAT THE CITED CONDITIONS BE MODIFIED, AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, REITERATES THE CONSIDERATIONS AND PROPOSITIONS CONTAINED IN THE CITED NOTE 42 AND DISCUSSED IN THE ABOVE-CITED CONVERSATIONS. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: CUBAN NOTE IS SIGNIFICANT, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT CONSTITUTES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY HAVANA THAT THE USG IS DEALING WITH CUBA ON FISHERIES FROM A POSITION OF GOOD FAITH. THIS ENHANCES THE CREDIBILITY IN HAVANA'S EYES OF POSSIBLE FUTURE USG GESTURES TOWARD CUBA IN THE ECONOMIC AREA--THE PRIME MEANS WE HAVE TO LURE THE CUBANS INTO A MORE REASONABLE POSTURE ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US. ACCORDINGLY WE HOPE THAT THE POSSIBLE BYCATCH ACCOMMODATION SKETCHED OUT

DURING RECENT HAVANA TALKS (REFTEL C) CAN BE BROUGHT TO FRUITION.  
LANE UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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